

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 ARA-06 /038 W

----- 095170

P R 022237Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9010

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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FOR US REP ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CA, OCLR, CU, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CUBANA OPERATIONS FROM MONTREAL

REF: OTTAWA 794, OTTAWA 782; JETT-O'CONNOR TELECON MARCH 2

1. ACCORDING TO AIR CANADA (WEEDRICK), SECOND CUBANA FERRY FLIGHT DEPARTED MONTREAL FOR HAVANA ON OCEAN ROUTE FEBRUARY 28 AS ANTICIPATED.

2. OFFICIAL DATE OF MARCH 3 FOR INAUGURATION OF SCHEDULED SERVICE BY CUBANA FROM MONTREAL IS STILL BEING MAINTAINED. HOWEVER, MOT AIRCRAFT LICENSE HAD NOT BEEN ISSUED AS OF AFTERNOON MARCH 2 AND AIR CANADA IS DUBIOUS INAUGURAL FLIGHT WILL ACTUALLY COMMENCE TOMORROW. NO ADVERTISING OF SERVICE HAS YET TAKEN PLACE AND ARRANGEMENTS ONLY JUST MADE FOR AIR CANADA TO ACT AS RESERVATIONS AGENT IN MONTREAL. (CUBANA IS TO PLAY OPPOSITE ROLE FOR AIR CANADA IN HAVANA.) WEEDRICK DESCRIBED CUBANA COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS VIEWED BY AIR CANADA AS EXTREMELY SLOPPY BY INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE STANDARDS.

3. MOT HAS ASSIGNED CUBANA ROUTE FROM MONTREAL VIA QUEBEC, MONTJOLI, RHINESTONE, SABIL ISLAND, PORPOISE AND OVER

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WATER TO HABANA WHICH MUST BE USED UNTIL CUBANA GETS USG

PERMISSION TO OVERFLY. CUBANA OPERATIONS MANAGER HAS ASSURED AIR CANADA CUBAN GOVERNMENT WILL REQUEST THIS PROMPTLY. AIR CANADA DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF PAY-LOAD WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED TO DO THIS NON-STOP, ALTHOUGH SOME CARGO HAD TO BE LEFT BEHIND ON FEBRUARY 29 FLIGHT.

4. CUBANA PILOTS ARE NOW IN COMMAND OF DC-8 AIRCRAFT ALTHOUGH CANADIAN PILOTS WILL CONTINUE IN ADVISORY ROLE UNTIL TRAINING OF CUBAN CREWS FULLY COMPLETED. THIS MAY TAKE UNTIL AUGUST 1976.

5. TCO ASKED WEEDRICK TO IDENTIFY MORE PRECISELY BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING AIR CANADA TO DEVIATE FROM APPROVED ROUTES IN U.S. AIRSPACE WHICH HE MENTIONED ON FEBRUARY 28 (OTTAWA 782, PARA 3). THIS INFORMATION NOT YET AVAILABLE.

6. EMBASSY HOPES DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE FAA CLARIFY STATUS OF CZECH ROUTE (STATE 042942) IN VIEW AIR CANADA INFORMATION (OTTAWA 782) THAT IT IS UNUSABLE AS RESULT OF USG REGULATIONS. WEEDRICK ASKED TCO MARCH 2 FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POINT.
ENDERS

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